

Locally Developed Human Service Public Transit
Coordinated Transportation Plan

The ARC of Delaware County provides transportation services for elderly and disabled individuals throughout Delaware County, consisting of 1,460 square miles located in mountainous and remote areas.

Most of the participants served by the ARC of Delaware County, are elderly in addition to being developmentally disabled, and have a variety of medical and physical conditions in need of monitoring and attention. This creates a need for a specialized transportation system. Transportation staff, are required to have specific training to deal safely and effectively with these conditions. It has been a necessity for our Agency to develop such specialized services throughout Delaware County for more than 35 years.

Public transportation service in Delaware County is extremely limited and there are no public transportation providers, servicing the needs of persons with disabilities. In the application manual for Section 5310 FFY 2008, under List of MPO's, and areas outside an MPO, Delaware County is not listed. In applications prior to 2008, Delaware County has always been listed as having no public transportation.

- Complying with the New Federal Requirements, our Agency is actively investigating the coordination of services with other agencies in the county. However, this is very challenging, as there are no other agencies that provide transportation for the developmentally disabled individuals we serve.
- Our Agency has restructured its services to include an expanded coverage area, resulting in an addition of five bus runs/drivers and one bus aide since June 2006. Our goal was/is to reduce the length of ride for our increasingly elderly population.
- Currently we are providing services for the Delaware County Office For The Aging, which includes;
- Article 19A mandated requirements, to maintain compliance of current drivers.

- We continue to conduct discussions to identify current duplication of services and the possibility of realistic, feasible coordination within the County to benefit the elderly and disabled .
- Several discussions have taken place but we are still in the preliminary stages of offering the provision of feeder services for The Office for The Aging, day excursions. Our Agency is open to offering this service however, the stigma attached to our buses and scheduling are two of our greatest challenges.
- Both Agencies are hopeful that in time, we can break down these barriers and the public will have a more positive outlook on our services. We have taken steps to improve this situation by removing the labeling of our buses, (NYSARC).
- The ARC of Delaware County has shared and provided services to Delaware Opportunities Inc., as our agency has provided bus service, repair and a D.O.T. inspection facility. We continue to have discussions on the implementation of servicing other Delaware Opportunity Inc. fleet vehicles. We are also hoping to expand our coordination efforts to include shared volume purchasing, for vehicle parts inventory.
- The Arc of Delaware County made an attempt to contact private for- profit, transit and paratransit Operators, by publishing public notice of our proposed project, in newspapers covering our region, with no response.

In summary, as of spring of 2007, the transportation director of the ARC of Delaware County has attended several regional NYSDOT round table discussions, and will invite, and strongly encourage other Delaware County agencies to participate in future sessions. The ARC of Delaware County, Delaware County Office for The Aging , Delaware Opportunities Inc., and the Delaware County Planning Office, will continue to maintain current ongoing relations and investigate other organizations and avenues of coordination to benefit the elderly and disabled population.